

14 May 1996

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)  
(S)

Barry -

Ref the ARRB staff request for information pertaining to Project QKENCHANT.

ASE  
In the attached "Enclosure 21," the cryptonym is mentioned in paragraph 11, as it pertains to one J. Monroe Sullivan in relation to Clay Shaw. For the staff's background use only, OKENCHANT was an indicator used by Central Cover Staff and the Office of Security with a program for clearing  providers (businesses, etc.) with access to classified material.

The size of the project file is approximately

Ellie

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2003

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27 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR:  Chief, JFK Declassification  
Project/HRP/OIM/DA

FROM:

SUBJECT:  DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR #06

REFERENCE:  ARRB's Memorandum dated 18 December 1997,  
RE: Status of CIA Responses to  
Assassination Records Review Board's  
Requests for Additional Information and  
Records

This memorandum is submitted in response to informal request number 06 (CIA IR #06) from the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB).

\*\*CIA-IR-06 QKENCHANT

- a.  Per the Review Board's request regarding the purpose of QKENCHANT and its connection with Clay Shaw, Howard Hunt, and Monroe Sullivan, the following information is provided.
- b.  QKENCHANT was a project for obtaining clearances, that is, Provisional Covert Security Approvals (PCSA) and Covert Security Approvals (CSA), with the Office of Security in connection with the acquisition of  . In connection with the acquisition of  Directorate of Operations guidelines require that a PCSA/CSA be obtained in most instances before a  entity can be used as a
- c.  With regard to Clay Shaw and his association with the QKENCHANT project: A review of Shaw's security file indicates that he received a "five Agency" clearance on 23 March 1949. Our records indicate the QKENCHANT project did not begin until sometime in 1952, therefore, Shaw in all probability was not cleared by the QKENCHANT program.



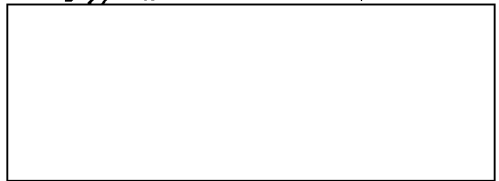
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SUBJECT: DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR 06

d. [ ] After Howard Hunt's retirement from the Agency, he went to work for the Robert R. Mullen Company. The Mullen Company had for years cooperated with the Agency by providing [ ] [ ] Hunt was cleared for QKENCHANT by the Agency so that he could deal with administrative matters when necessary during Mullen's absences from his firm in Washington.

e . [ ] J. Monroe Sullivan, Clay Shaw's boss, was granted a CSA in December 1962 so that he could be used in Project QKENCHANT.



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Subject: DO Response to Informal Request CIA IR #06

C/IMS [redacted] (3March1998)

Distribution:

- Original - C/JFK Declassification Project/HRP/OIM/DA
- 1 - C/IMS [redacted]
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18 September 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laura Denk  
Executive Director, ARRB

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson  
JFK Project Officer, HRP/OIM

SUBJECT: CIA-IR-06, QKENCHANT

1. QKENCHANT was the name of an Agency project used to provide security approvals on non-Agency personnel and facilities. Such approvals were required so that Agency personnel could meet individuals to discuss proposed projects, activities, and possible relationships.
2. Clay Shaw received an initial "five agency" clearance on 23 March 1949 and Agency records indicate the QKENCHANT project did not begin until sometime in 1952. Thus, in all probability he was not cleared by that program, at least initially.
3. Monroe Sullivan, Clay Shaw's boss, was granted a security approval in December 1962.
4. With respect to Howard Hunt, following his retirement from the Agency, he went to work with a company which had previously cooperated with the Agency. Hunt was granted a clearance so he could deal with administrative matters in the absence of others within that company.
5. The Agency believes it has fully answered the questions asked within this request and considers it completed.

[Redacted Signature Box]

J. Barry Harrelson